



Course Syllabus Spring 2025 Online PSYC2301 General Psychology (3 credit hours)

Faculty Information:

Dr. Laura Paul

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Availability: My office hours are **MW:10-11, 1:30-2:30; T: 8-9:30, 11-12, 1:30-2:30; R: 8-9:30, 11-12 F: 10-11 (Central Time)**. If these times are not convenient for you, please let me know. I will be happy to accommodate your schedule, if possible. I provide you with these times to make it easier to communicate with me, and not to limit our contact.

Course Description: General Psychology is a survey of major psychological topics, theories and approaches to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes.

Statement of Purpose: This course satisfies the Behavioral Sciences requirement of the core curriculum. It also partially satisfies the requirements for Psychology majors and is fully transferable to a senior college or University.

Required Instructional Materials:

Open Education Resource: Spielman, R. M., Jenkins, W.J., Lovett, M. D. (2020). Psychology (2ed). Houston, TX: OpenStax Rice University.

Students will use OpenStax textbook which is a FREE electronic textbook which never expires. If students prefer a hard copy of the text, they can purchase it for \$30.

The following steps will bring you to the online material:

1. Go to <https://openstax.org/>
2. Click the "subjects" link at the top of the page
3. Click the Subject of the book you would like to view Social Science
4. Click on the book cover Psychology
5. Once there, you can choose to view the entire textbook as a .pdf or on the web. You can also download the .pdf to your own computer.

Method of Instruction: This online course uses OpenLMS as its online course management program. All instructions, tutorials, exams, and assignments are provided at the course website. All assignments will be submitted there. Due dates for all assignments are listed on the "Course Schedule" at the end of the syllabus.



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Most communication between you and your instructor and fellow classmates will be handled in Moodle through the “Messages” feature and discussion forums. You will be able to log into the course website once you have officially registered for the course and once you have been added to the course website. The course website will become available by the first day of the semester. If you register late, you will generally have access to the course within 24 hours after you register. In order to be successful in completing this 3-credit-hour course, you should plan to spend between **6-9 hours per week on the course**.

The information explaining how to log into your course website can be obtained by going to [Clarendon College](#)’s home page and clicking the **Online Classes** button. If you have any difficulty logging in, email our help desk at: administrator@clarendoncollege.edu

Core Objectives:

- Critical thinking skills –to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication skills –to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and quantitative skills–to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Social responsibility – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Identify various research methods and their characteristics used in the scientific study of psychology.
2. Describe the historical influences and early schools of thought that shaped the field of psychology.
3. Describe some of the prominent perspectives and approaches used in the study of psychology.
4. Use terminology unique to the study of psychology.
5. Describe accepted approaches and standards in psychological assessment and evaluation.
6. Identify factors in physiological and psychological processes involved in human behavior.

Grading Policies:

The final grade in this course will be determined by the following:

Activity (25) 25%
Discussion (21) 25%
Tests (4) 20%
Projects (4) 20%
Participation 10%



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Grading Scale :

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Percentage	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	59>

Your official final grade will be made available through your Student Portal at Clarendon College's website.

Personal Policies

Due Dates, Attendance, and Make-up policy: Regular weekly attendance is mandatory in all courses. Specific activities will be identified on the course schedule that must be completed for students to be considered "in attendance." Attendance will be posted to the Student Portal. Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and failure of the class.

Due dates will be given in plenty of time allowing students to work ahead. If you participate in school that may conflict with due dates, you must arrange it before the day of absence. ***NO LATE assignments will be accepted.***

My personal attendance policy: For this course, I will submit an **attendance report each class and on the census date**. Students can be placed on academic probation or lose financial aid for chronic non-attendance or failure to progress through the course assignments. Students who are following the attendance policy are marked "present."

Excused Absences: Approved participation in school-sponsored activities are considered an excused absence. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor prior to the school-sponsored activity. It is also your responsibility to make arrangements for material and assignments. An absence MAY, at the discretion of the instructor, be excused.

Participation: Students are required to participate in class. Participation includes the student's preparation for class, inquiry about the material, discussion, collaborative learning, active listening, completion of assignments, and communication with the instructor.

College Policies

Academic Integrity Policy: Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.



Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment ; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate Vice President, and/or Vice President. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered, and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discovers or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Students. The Vice



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President of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Vice President of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Students. If the Vice President of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken. Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

PLAGIARISM: Read the following explanations carefully and be sure that you understand them.

1. **Word-for-word plagiarism:** The student quotes his or her source without using quotation marks. Even if the student cites the source, he or she is still plagiarizing because proper quotation procedures were not used.
2. **Paraphrased plagiarism:** The student uses a source and with the exception of changing a few words or phrases essentially quotes the original. Even if the source is properly cited, the writing is still plagiarized because the student has used the author's style, vocabulary, and content and claimed it as his or her own.
3. **Improper citations:** If a student uses someone's information other than his or her own, the source of the material must be properly cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.
4. **Improper use of ideas:** Ideas are as equally protected as words. If the student uses someone's ideas, but expresses them in his or her words, the student plagiarizes if he or she does not cite the source of the idea.
5. **Internet use:** Copying and pasting from the Internet and AI is plagiarism. Purchasing papers from a paper mill is plagiarism.
6. **Student sharing:** While students are certainly free to work together and study together, however, an assignment that calls for individual work must reflect the student's personal effort. If a student borrows or copies another student's work, that is plagiarism. **Please password protect your computer and/or your flash drive.**

If a student has another student write a paper, that is plagiarism. If two students collaborate on an individual assignment and turn in the same work, that is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. It involves legal issues about improper use of materials that do not belong to the student. Plagiarism is unethical. A student must do his



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or her own work; otherwise, the learning process is compromised. Plagiarism is unfair to fellow students who take the time and make the effort to do their own work. Essentially, plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated.

Dropping a Course: If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a “W” on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned. Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, starting with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop 6 courses throughout their undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Withdrawal from College: When a student must withdraw from school before the end of the semester, they should obtain a withdrawal form from the Office of Student Services. Students may also withdraw from the college by sending a written request for such action to the Registrar’s Office. The request must include the student’s signature, the student’s current address, social security number and course information details. Students who withdraw after the census date for the semester and on or before the end of the 12th week of a long semester, or on or before the last day to drop a class of a term as designated in the college calendar will be assigned a grade of “W.”

Accommodations Statement/Americans with Disability Act: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.
<https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/accommodations>

Nondiscrimination Policy: Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. It is the



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policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Grievance/Appeals: If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the Clarendon website at:

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>



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Other Important dates to remember:	
<i>Last day to Add/Drop</i>	1/23
<i>Financial Settlement</i>	1/30
<i>Census Day</i>	2/5
Spring Break: NO SCHOOL	3/17-3/21
<i>Midterms</i>	3/31
<i>Community Service Day</i>	4/2
<i>Last day to Withdraw</i>	4/10
Good Friday: NO SCHOOL	4/18
<i>Commencement Ceremony</i>	5/9
<i>Final Exams</i>	5/12-5/14
<i>End of Semester (Grades Posted to Transcript) 2p</i>	5/16



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PSYC2301 General Psychology <i>The course schedule is tentative and subject to change.</i> <i>** Activities used to determine attendance**</i>	
Week 1: 1/21-1/26 Introductions	DUE DATES
EVA	1/23
Syllabus Quiz	1/23
Contact Info	1/23
**Autobiography	1/26
Backup Plan	1/26
Proper Message	1/26
Plagiarism Quiz	1/26
Week 2: 1/27-2/2 Introduction of Psychology	
** Psychology Careers Discussion	1/29
Maslow Hierarchy of Needs Activity	1/31
Reflection	2/2
Week 3: 2/3-2/9 Research Methods	
Research Study Discussion	2/5
**Conducting Research Activity	2/7
Reflection	2/9
Week 4: 2/10-2/16 Biopsychology/Neuroscience	
THEORIST POWERPOINT	2/10
Student Feedback	2/10
Cerebral Cortex Discussion	2/12
**Steroid Use Activity	2/14
Reflection	2/16
Week 5: 2/17-2/23 States of Consciousness	
**Sleep Log	2/17
Homicidal Sleepwalking Discussion	2/19
Guided Meditation Activity	2/21
Reflection	2/23
UNIT 1 TEST	2/21-2/23
Week 6: 2/24-3/2 Sensation and Perception	



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Synthesis Discussion	2/26
**Gestalt Principles Activity	2/28
Reflection	3/2
Week 7: 3/3-3/9 Learning	
Bobo Doll Experiment Discussion	3/5
**Stimulus and Response Activity	3/7
Reflection	3/9
Week 8: 3/10-3/16 Intelligence and Language	
**Theories of Intelligence Discussion	3/12
Divergent/Convergent Activity	3/12
Creativity Test Activity	3/14
Reflection	3/16
NO SCHOOL : Spring Break	3/17-3/21
Week 9: 3/24-3/30 Memory	MIDTERMS
**Eyewitness Testimony Discussion	3/26
Mnemonics Activity	3/28
Reflection	3/30
UNIT 2 TEST	3/28-3/30
Week 10: 3/31-4/6 Motivation and Emotion	
**Intrinsic/Extrinsic Motivation Activity	4/1
NO CLASS: Community Service Day	4/2
Body Language Discussion	4/4
Hookup Culture in College	4/4
Reflection	4/6
Week 11: 4/7-4/13 Personality	
Myers Briggs Activity	4/9
Personality Test Discussion	4/9
**Defense Mechanism Activity	4/11
Reflection	4/13
CRITICAL THINKING PAPER	4/13
Week 12: 4/14-4/20 Social Psychology	
**Bystander Discussion	4/14
Breaking Social Norms Activity	4/14



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Psychology of Evil Discussion	4/16
Reflection	4/16
UNIT 3 TEST	4/15-4/17
NO SCHOOL: Good Friday	4/18
Week 13: 4/21-4/27	
Stress, Lifestyle, Health	
**Stress Reduction Discussion	4/23
Happiness Activity	4/23
Reactions to Stress Discussion	4/25
Reflection	4/27
Week 14: 4/28-5/4	
Psychological Disorders and Treatments	
Personality Disorder	4/30
Reflection	5/4
Week 15: 5/5-5/11	
Therapy and Treatment	
Antidepressant Discussion	5/7
**Listening and Reflection Activity	5/7
Therapist Activity	5/9
Classroom feedback	5/11
FINALS : 5/12-5/14	
**FINAL UNIT 4 TEST	5/12-5/13
Institutional Feedback	5/14